The Spirit of Saint Nicholas in the Southwest

By Jonathan Olvera

It was a bright and sunny afternoon as the year drew to a close. The sun began to cool, signaling a change in the season. In the vast southwest territory, the people endured the heat but held strong in their faith—faith in their work, in their homes, and in the kindness of Saint Nicholas.

Saint Nicholas had visited before, during the time of snow and abundant water. Oh, how the people labored under the sun! They worked in schools, in the zoo, in the kitchen—everywhere. And yet, no matter how hot the days became, they never forgot that Saint Nicholas had a home in the North Pole.

The animals and critters of the land had their place, too, just as those in the North Pole did. In the southwest, the people knew of the endless cool days that graced the Arctic, where treasures of the Earth lay preserved beneath the ice.

Together, they honored Saint Nicholas, for his work in the North Pole was never-ending. The animals listened to him, as did the angels in the sky. The lights of heaven guided Santa's helpers, ensuring they made the right choices. And now, there was a list—a record of those who had behaved.

Saint Nicholas, or Santa Claus as some called him, had the power to prove his magic. If everyone behaved, he could ready his sleigh, ascend into the sky, and visit every household on Earth in just one night.

The North Pole was frigid—so cold that it preserved Saint Nicholas and his faithful workers. Yet, despite the icy air, he found warmth in small joys. Guided by the celestial lights, alongside the critters and workers of this planet, he delighted in hot drinks—coffee, cocoa, and sweet pastries. These simple treats fueled his spirit, helping to keep boys and girls on the path of goodness.

Saint Nicholas is always at work, spreading treats of sugar, the light of the sky, and the blessings of creatures from every home that believes in kindness.

In the southwest, the heat can be relentless. The work never stops. But in the midst of it all, there is always room for a good attitude, a friendly heart, and love for one’s neighbor. The critters, the workers, and even Saint Nicholas himself will remember those who are kind.

So be good. Listen to your parents. And in time, Saint Nicholas will visit, bringing warmth, joy, and the sweet taste of hot drinks and pastries on a more favorable day.